

ABSTRACT

Power supplies (116) for cable access units (110) have associated backup power supplies (120) and generate one or more power supply status indications for said backup power supplies (120). Cable access units (110) monitor and retain the generated power supply status indications. An operator unit (102) communicates periodically with the cable access units (110) to ascertain the power supply status indications. If any power supply status indications indicate an alarm condition, the operator unit (102) can display an indication of the alarm condition and the identity of the cable access unit reporting the alarm condition. Alternatively, if the number of reported alarm conditions equals or exceeds a service area alarm threshold, the operator unit (102) can display a service area alarm in lieu of displaying any individual alarms.